application has, as yet, been received from M/s. Pfizer India for conducting clinical trails with Exubera (inhaler Insulin).

Free medicines to TB patients

2512. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would issue advertisements to inform the public that Government do not provide medicines free of cost to TB patients who are below the poverty line;

(b) whether it is a fact that hospitals catering to TB patients like the L.R. Hospital in Delhi do not supply free TB medicines to poor patients;

(c) if so, what steps would be undertaken by Government to ensure that only accurate and correct policies and programmes are publicized through advertisements; and

(d) the steps proposed to review all advertisements being issued by Government, which contains inaccuracies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Under the National TB Control Programme, diagnostic and treatment facilities including supply of anti-TB drugs for full course of treatment are provided free of cost to all TB patients irrespective of economic status in the entire country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Ban on gutkha and pan masala

2513. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States that have represented Government to put a ban on the manufacture, sale and export of gutkha and pan masala in the country during the last three years;

(b) the decision taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) whether the existing legislation The Cigarette and other tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade, Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003' has been found ineffective to curb the sale of gutkha and pan masala in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Central Government has received requests from Government of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to ban manufacture and sale of gutkha and pan masala in the country.

(b) The Central Committee for Food Standards which is a statutory body under the PFA Act, 1954, has recommended that Tobacco, Alcoholic beverages and Nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in the manufacture of proprietary foods (non-standardized foods). Gutkha is marketed as a proprietary food.

Accordingly, draft rules further to amend PFA Rules, 1955 have been published in the Gazette of India *vide* notification GSR 694(E) dated 28.11.2005 which *inter alia* propose that tobacco, alcoolic beverages and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in proprietary food products. Proprietary food means a food which has not been standardized under PFA Rules 1955. The draft rules have been published for inviting objections/suggestions.

(c) The Tobacco Control Act, 2003 does not provide for ban on manufacture, sale and export of gutkha and pan masala. However, it restricts the sale of tobacco products including gutkha and pan masala, within 100 meters of education institutions. The State Governments are the implementing agencies of the provisions contained in the Act.

Female foeticide in India

2514. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to check the meanace of female foeticide in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that British Asians are coming to India for sex determination and abortion of female foetuses; and